Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Karen Azalea

Rhododendron 'Karen'



Karen Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

An extraordinary and stunning variety presenting multiple clusters of bright lavender-pink blooms on a hardy and dense compact shrub; a beautiful presentation as a garden focal point



Karen Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Karen Azalea is bathed in stunning clusters of lightly-scented lilac purple trumpet-shaped flowers with pink overtones at the ends of the branches in mid spring before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Karen Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Karen Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Karen Azalea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.